GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3395
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
PROMOTION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the specific steps being taken by the Government for promoting transfer of technologies from India and abroad during the last three years;

(b) whether any review / study has been made to ascertain the extent to which Indian industries have benefited from these measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) The Government has taken several steps to promote transfer of technologies from India and abroad. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy has been liberalized in several sectors, permitting automatic approval up to 100% FDI into the country, coupled with technology transfer. Foreign R&D Centres have been allowed to be established in India in the areas of information technology, drugs and pharmaceuticals, bio-technology, electronics, automobiles etc. which have facilitated technology transfer in some cases. India has complied with the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) agreement of World Trade Organization (WTO) by introducing the product patent regime in the areas of chemicals, drugs and food, which has also facilitated technology transfer to India by trans-national corporations. Recently, the signing of path-breaking 123 Agreement with the US, operationalising the bilateral nuclear deal has opened the doors for technology transfer to India in the area of civil nuclear energy.Besides this,the Government has entered into several bi-lateral agreements and taken joint technological initiatives with other countries to promote technology transfer. Further, the Government has a programme wherein documentation and training on various issues of technology transfer and acquisition such as technology valuation, pricing, etc. is provided to Indian industry.

As regards promotion of technology transfer from India is concerned, Government has a programme for promoting technology exports, wherein compilation of exportable technologies is made and awareness is created about the technological developments of India in select sectors, industry is facilitated to showcase their technologies in international exhibitions and consultants are trained for inventions in industry for building their technology export strategy.

(b)&(c)The Government has not made any specific review / study to ascertain the extent to which Indian industries have benefited from these measures. However, the number of foreign technical collaborations (FTC Approvals) between Indian industry and overseas counterparts, approved during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 were 83, 81 and 95 respectively, as per the FDI statistics maintained by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. As per the latest available statistics of the World Bank, US$ 421 million and US$ 949 million were the payments made by India towards royalty and license fees (implying payments made for technology imports) and US$ 25 million and US$ 112 million were India's receipt of royalty and license fees (implying receipts for technology exports) during 2005 and 2006 respectively.